

REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 2015

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas met at City Hall at 4:30 p.m. on the above date—the following being present: Mayor Beth Wade, Commissioner Chuck Miller, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Commissioners Fred Olsen and Kitty Walter were absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C0228-15 and #P0310-15 were discussed and reviewed. There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Rose Mary Saunders from Ranson Financial Consultants gave a presentation on “Better Management for Safe Drinking Water.” She is also in partnership with KDHE, Kansas Municipal Utilities, and Wichita State University. Rose Mary went over the Safe Water Drinking Act requirements, and pointed out that with our aging systems, we need to plan for the future, as federal and state funding is decreasing. She left some information on two training sessions—“Asset Management,” and “Utility Rate Setting.” Some other things Rose Mary covered were the importance of having emergency revenues set aside, generating sufficient revenues for your system, doing a periodic review of rates, and long term forecasting. She went over the contents of an income statement, and forecasting for revenues, expenses, and future demand for water, and added that reserves should be in place for operating expenses, capital outlay, equipment, depreciation, and emergencies. The budget process, credit worthiness, cash on hand, and debt options were gone over. The Commission thanked Rose Mary for her presentation.

Ron presented a five-year Capital Improvement Program for the airport, from 2016-2020, as well as a long range needs assessment from 2021-2025. Merlin Oswald went over some of the potential projects, and noted that the federal government will pay all but 10% of the cost. A motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the airport CIP plan, subject to change. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Curtis Hartman was present to discuss the 4th Annual Throttle Jockey car show and drag race. He asked for some street closings and permission to park some club cars in the median past Central Bank. The Commission did not have a problem with closing streets, but did not want cars parked in the grass. Wendy Jones said there would be a street dance and “cruise” on Friday night this year. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Mayor Wade, to close Broadway Street between Main and Walnut on Friday, April 24th from 6 p.m.-midnight, and Broadway, Main, First, Walnut, and Day Streets, as per a map provided by Curtis, from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25th. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

The land bank was briefly discussed. Ron noted that there is a company that wants to give us some property. The land bank ordinance will be considered at the next meeting.

An ordinance that would raise the electric meter charge for residential customers to \$15.00/month, and the charge for commercial customers to \$20.00/month was again considered. Ron said this would help get the electric fund into shape. Chuck said he thought we were going to “chill” and wait and see how the electric fund does after the hospital starts paying. D.J. Neuberger asked the reason for the increase. Ron stated that the reason is that we are in a predicament—there are no reserves in the light fund, we are barely taking in enough money to cover expenses, and that we have to do something. D.J. suggested doing an actual rate study. Michelle asked Ron to “do as he has been asked,” and “show me proof” of why an increase is needed. No action was taken on the ordinance.

Michelle said she appreciates the patching that has been done on West Walnut, and felt that we need to look at widening the road at some point.

A motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Also present at the meeting were Ken Walters, Wendy Jones, Dave Jones, Gloria Boomer, Brandy Collins, Rose Mary Saunders, Jerry Bailey, Sharon Bailey, Curtis Hartman, Merlin Oswald, Sandy Merrifield, Kat Souza, Mark Hager, D.J. Neuberger, Virginia Neuberger, Rick Freeman, Paula Strickland, Ray Perez, Vickie Hawkes, Cynthia Naylor, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk